

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A hybrid polymerase having polymerase activity, wherein the polymerase comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 ~~SEQ ID NO:23~~ and is at least 85% identical over 700 contiguous amino acids of the *Pyrococcus furiosus* (*Pfu*) polymerase sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 24 with the *proviso* that  
the hybrid polymerase sequence comprises at least one hybrid position that is mutated from the native *Pfu* residue to the residue that occurs at the corresponding position of SEQ ID NO:25, wherein the hybrid position is one of the residues designated as "X" in SEQ ID NO:26.
- 2-8. (cancelled)
9. (currently amended) The hybrid polymerase of claim 8 1, wherein the polymerase is fused to a sequence-nonspecific double-stranded DNA binding domain is selected from the group consisting of Sso7d, Sac7d, and Sac7e.
10. (original) The hybrid polymerase of claim 9, wherein the DNA binding domain is Sso7d.
- 11-31. (cancelled)
32. (withdrawn-currently amended) A method of amplifying a target sequence using a hybrid polymerase, the method comprising the steps of:  
providing a polymerase according to claim 1 ~~or claim 25~~,  
combining the polymerase in an amplification reaction mixture, and  
amplifying the target sequence.